

# About the Big Game Drawing

## General Information

All premium deer hunt tags and elk, antelope and sheep tags are distributed through the DFG Big Game Drawing.

Under a Modified Preference Point System drawing, tag quotas for each hunt are split into two portions: one portion awarded by preference point drawings; the other portion awarded in draw-by-choice drawings. Quota splits vary, depending on the species, total number of available tags, or other special criteria (such as those for junior hunts).

Instructions for completing elk, antelope and sheep applications can be found on page 35, and deer tag application instructions begin on page 13.

All big game tag applications for the annual big game drawing must be **received** at the DFG's License and Revenue Branch, in Sacramento by 5:00 p.m. on June 2, 2006.

### How the Deer Drawings Work

- The DFG will run the draw within 10 business days of the application deadline.
- After the application deadline, when all applicant information has been entered, the computer assigns each person (or party) a unique random number.
- Just prior to the drawing, the computer sorts all applications according to first tag choice, preference point totals and random number.
- The computer begins awarding first tag choices to applicants with the most preference points, in random order (starting with lowest number), until all applications have been processed.
- After the preference point round is completed, unsuccessful applications are resorted by random number (starting with the lowest number), and the computer begins awarding tags based on applicant's first-choice without consideration of accumulated points, until all draw-by-choice quotas fill or all applications have been processed.
- All remaining unsuccessful applications are then sorted by second tag choice and the computer conducts a second round of drawings for any zones

and hunts with tags remaining without consideration of accumulated points.

- If tags remain after second tag choices have been processed, applications are sorted once again by third tag choice, in random number order (starting with the lowest number) and any remaining tags are awarded without consideration of accumulated points.
- Applications not drawn in the third round are submitted for refund or hunters are notified of available tags so they may reapply.

### Drawing Results

Deer tags and unsuccessful drawing notices will be mailed to drawing participants as soon as possible after the drawing. Beginning June 26, 2006, draw results will be available by phone during regular business hours from DFG license sales offices. On that date applicants may also look up draw results on the DFG's Web site at:

**[www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/hunting/hunting.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/hunting/hunting.html)**

### Notifying Successful Applicants

After notices are mailed to unsuccessful applicants, deer tags are sent to successful applicants in order of season

openings. Successful applicants should receive their tags by July 3, 2006. If you do not receive your tag by this date please contact your nearest DFG office.

### Notifying Unsuccessful Applicants

After the drawings, notices will be mailed to unsuccessful drawing participants who did not check the refund box on their original applications. These applicants should receive a notice by July 3, 2006 that lists zones and available hunts as of that date. Applicants must wait for their drawing notices to reapply for available tags. If you are unsuccessful and checked the refund box when you applied, you will be notified by mail and your application will be automatically submitted for a refund. Allow 12-16 weeks to receive your refund.

**Do not** discard your drawing notice as it takes the place of your original deer tag application and must be used to reapply for available tags (either individually or as a party), or to request a refund of your deer tag application fee. Unsuccessful applicants who do not receive their drawing notice by July 3, 2006, should contact any DFG license sales office.

## Deer Tag Quota Splits

### Premium Deer Tags (Excluding Junior Deer Tags)

- Ninety percent (90%) of the individual zone or hunt tag quota shall be awarded using a Preference Point drawing.
- Ten percent (10%) of the individual zone or hunt tag quota shall be awarded using a Draw-by-Choice drawing.
- For zones or hunts with quotas less than ten (10) tags, one (1) tag shall be awarded using a Draw-by-Choice drawing.

### Junior Deer Tags

- Fifty percent (50%) of the hunt tag quota shall be awarded through a Preference Point drawing.
- Fifty percent (50%) of the hunt tag quota shall be awarded through a Draw-By-Choice drawing.

# General Deer Tag Information

**Big Game  
Drawing Deadline:  
June 2, 2006**

## General Deer Tag Information

In addition to a California hunting license, deer tags are also required and must be in possession when taking deer. Applicants for deer tags must be at least 12 years of age on or before July 1 of the license year for which they are applying or at the time of application if they are applying after July 1.

First-deer and second-deer tag applications are available at license agents and DFG license sales offices. To find an authorized license agent in your area visit our Web site at:

**[www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/index.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/index.html)**

Only a first-deer tag may be used to apply for the Big Game Drawing except that junior hunters may apply for junior hunts on their second-deer tag application.

You must purchase a first-deer tag application before purchasing a second-deer tag application.

It is illegal to submit more than one first-deer tag application and one second-deer tag application in the same license year. Persons convicted of a deer violation during the 2005/2006 license year may not apply for deer tags in 2006/2007.

## Deer Tag Exchanges

You may exchange an A, B, C, or D zone tag or an Archery-Only tag if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The earliest season (either archery or general) for the tag being exchanged has not yet opened;
2. Tags are still available for the zone or hunt requested; and
3. Payment of a nonrefundable \$7.50 exchange tag processing fee is received.

If you think you were issued the incorrect tag, immediately return it to the DFG office that issued your tag with a written explanation and include the postmarked envelope in which you received the tag (if the tag was issued by mail). The DFG will verify which tag you requested. If it is determined that the DFG issued you the incorrect tag you will not be required to pay the exchange

fee. However, if it is determined that the DFG issued you the tag that you requested you will be required to pay the exchange fee.

You may not exchange an X zone, Additional Hunt or Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag.

## Lost or Destroyed Deer Tags

To replace a lost or destroyed tag, you must file an affidavit with any DFG office and pay a nonrefundable duplicate tag fee of \$7.50.

## Deer Tag Refund Policy

License agent handling fees and application processing fees are nonrefundable. Once you request a refund of your first-deer tag application or second-deer tag application fee, you may not buy another application of the same type during the 2006/2007 license year.

Refunds may be issued for unused deer tag applications or tags as defined below. Refunds will not be issued for emergency area closures due to fire, weather or any other conditions.

## Deer Tag Applications

You may request a refund for an unused First-Deer Tag Application, Second-Deer Tag Application or unsuccessful drawing notice. The deadline for requesting a refund is January 31, 2007. If you checked the refund box on your deer tag application and are unsuccessful in receiving any of your tag choices, you will automatically receive a refund of your application fee. Please allow 12-16 weeks for processing your refund.

## Deer Tags

Deer tags for premium deer hunts (X zones, Additional Hunts, and Area-Specific Archery Hunts) are nonrefundable. Refunds for unused deer tags for zones A, B, C, D, AO#1, and AO#2, may only be requested prior to the opening of the archery season or the earliest season for which the tag is valid.

## Suggestions for Applying for Deer Tags

- Junior hunters may not apply for Junior Hunts on more than one deer tag application. However, it is recommended that junior hunters wishing to apply for a C or D zone, or premium deer hunt (excluding Junior Hunts) use their First-Deer Tag Application for this purpose, and their Second-Deer Tag Application to apply for junior hunts.
- If you want a tag for C, D6, D7, D12 or D17, use your First-Deer Tag Application to apply for these zones. Tags for these zones filled before August 2, in 2005, and were not available on Second-Deer Tag Applications in 2005.
- Consulting the 2005 Deer Tag Drawing Statistics on pages 20-21 can help you develop your point strategy for the premium deer tag drawing.



*Bill Gore of Grass Valley, California, harvested this amazing buck during the M3 Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck hunt.*

# First-Deer Tag Applications

## First-Deer Tag Applications

A first-deer tag application may be used to apply for the following hunts:

### Premium Deer Tags

Tags are issued through the Big Game Drawing for X zones, Additional Hunts and Area-Specific Archery Hunts. To apply for a premium deer tag issued through the Big Game Drawing, applicants must use a First-Deer Tag Application; except for junior hunters (see below).

**X Zone Tags:** These tags allow hunting during the general season only, in a specific zone using a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow or bow.

**Additional Hunt Deer Tags:** Additional deer hunts offer antlerless, either-sex and buck hunting opportunities in a variety of locations throughout the state. They include junior deer hunts, military lands hunts, and special equipment hunts.

**Junior Deer Hunts:** Applicants must be at least 12 years of age on or before July 1 of the license year for which they are applying or at the time of application if they are applying after July 1, and must possess a 2006/2007 California junior hunting license. Eligible junior license holders may use either a first-deer or second-deer tag application to apply for junior deer hunts; however only one application may be submitted for junior hunts. (See pages 24-25 for junior deer hunts.) Juniors receiving tags must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older while hunting.

**Military Lands Hunts:** Additional hunts G8, G9 and J10 are held on military installations and offer limited numbers of tags for the public and military personnel. Public tags are issued through the DFG's Big Game Drawing. Military personnel must submit deer tag applications directly to the Base. Additional Hunts G7 (Beale Air Force Base Either-Sex Hunt), G10 (Camp

Pendleton Air Force Base Either-Sex Hunt), and G11 (Vandenberg Air Force Base Either-Sex Hunt) are for military personnel only.

**Area-Specific Archery Hunts:** These tags allow archery hunting in designated areas throughout the state, including X zones.

### Deer Tags Issued On Request

Deer tags are issued on request for A, B, C and D zones until tag quotas fill. You may apply by mail or in person at any DFG license sales office.

- **A, B, and D Zone Deer Tags:** These tags allow hunting during the archery season with archery equipment and during the general season with a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow or bow. Tags are valid for a specific zone except:
  - B zone tag is valid in all B zones;
  - D3-5 tag is valid in zones D3, D4 and D5; and
  - D11, D13 or D15 tag may be used in any of these three zones.
- **C Zone Deer Tags:** These tags are valid in zones C1, C2, C3 and C4 during the **general season only**. To hunt with archery equipment during the archery season in any C zone you must apply for an A1 Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag.
- **Archery-Only #1 (AO#1) Deer Tags:** These tags allow hunting with archery equipment during the archery and general seasons in A, B, or D zones.

An AO#1 tag may be used by military personnel only for Additional Hunt G10. (To hunt during an X zone archery season, you must have an Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag.) You may not possess a rifle, pistol, revolver or crossbow when hunting with an Archery-Only deer tag except as otherwise provided.

## Leftover Draw Tags Issued Beginning July 3, 2006

Persons with first-deer tag applications or unsuccessful drawing notices may apply for leftover drawing tags. You must submit your application before July 3, 2006, to be included in any additional drawings that may be required. *(If the number of applications received by 5:00 p.m., July 3, 2006 exceeds the number of tags available for a specific zone or hunt, a drawing may be held.)*

Any X zone or Additional Hunt tags remaining after the drawing will be issued on request by mail and in person from the DFG's License and Revenue Branch only.

Any Area-Specific Archery Hunt tags remaining after the drawing will be issued on request to any first or second-deer tag application or unsuccessful drawing notice by mail and in person from the DFG's License and Revenue Branch only; with the exception of A1 (Archery buck in the C zones) also available at the Redding office and A22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex), A31 (Los Angeles Archery Either-Sex) and A32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Archery Late Season Either-Sex) also available at the Los Alamitos and San Diego offices.

### Preference Point Only

Applicants who want to earn a preference point for deer but do not want to apply for a premium deer tag must:

1. Purchase a 2006/2007 California hunting license;
2. Purchase a First-Deer Tag Application;
3. Complete the application and write the point code "PD" in the first choice box on the application; and
4. Mail your application to the DFG's License and Revenue Branch. The application must be **received** at the DFG's License and Revenue Branch in Sacramento by 5:00 p.m., June 2, 2006.

In addition to requesting a preference point, you may also use your application to apply for a premium tag or tag issued on request as your second and third tag choices.



# Second-Deer Tag Applications

## Second-Deer Tag Applications

After purchasing a First-Deer Tag Application, applicants may purchase a Second-Deer Tag Application to apply for the following:

### Junior Deer Hunt Tags

Junior applicants who use their First-Deer Tag Application to apply for other tags, may use their Second-Deer Tag Application to apply for junior deer hunts through the Big Game Drawing.

Junior hunters may only submit **one** application for junior deer hunts, either a First-Deer Tag Application **or** a Second-Deer Tag Application.

### Deer Tags Issued on Request

The following tags are issued immediately upon request until tag quotas fill. You may apply in person or by mail at any DFG license sales office.

- **A Zone and B Zone Deer Tags:** These tags allow hunting during the archery season with archery equipment and during the general season with a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow or bow except as otherwise provided.

- **Archery-Only #2 (AO#2) Deer Tag:** These tags allow hunting with archery equipment during the archery and general seasons in A, B, or D zones.

An AO#2 tag may be used by military personnel for Additional Hunt G10. (To hunt during an X zone archery season, you must have an Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag.) You may not possess any rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver or crossbow when hunting with an Archery-Only deer tag, unless otherwise specified.

### Leftover Draw Tags Issued Beginning July 3, 2006

- **Any Area-Specific Archery Hunt Tag Remaining After the Drawing:** Tags for these hunts allow archery hunting in designated areas throughout the state, including hunts within X zones.

### Tags Issued Beginning August 2, 2006

- **C Zone Deer Tags:** These tags are valid in zones C1, C2, C3 and C4 during the **general season only**. To hunt with archery equipment during the archery season in any C zone you must apply for an A1 Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag.

- **D Zone Deer Tags:** These tags allow hunting during the archery season with archery equipment and during the general season with a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow or bow except as otherwise provided. Tags are valid for a specific zone except:

- D3-5 tag is valid in zones D3, D4 and D5; and
- D11, D13 or D15 tag may be used in any of these three zones.

- **Any Leftover Additional Hunt Tags:** Additional deer hunts include antlerless, either-sex and buck hunting opportunities in a variety of locations throughout the state. They also include junior, military lands, and special equipment hunts.

On August 2, 2006, second-deer tags for C or D zones will be issued at DFG offices upon request until quotas fill. Second tags for unfilled Additional Hunts are issued only at the DFG's License and Revenue Branch. To receive a C zone, any D zone, or leftover Additional Hunt tag before August 2, 2006, you must use a First-Deer Tag Application.



John Pryor of Loomis, California, claimed this Columbian blacktail buck on opening day in Zone B1. The outside antler spread measured 23-6/8 inches.

### Important Things to Consider Regarding Second-Deer Tag Applications

- Second-Deer Tag Applications **cannot** be used to apply for X zone Tags.
- If the DFG has received more applications than available tags for any zone or hunt, a drawing may be held. To be included in any drawing, submit your Second-Deer Tag Application in advance to the DFG's License and Revenue Branch in Sacramento.

# Filling Out Your Deer Tag Application

## Completing Your Deer Tag Application

When filling out your deer tag application, follow these steps:

1. Purchase a deer tag application from a DFG office or license agent.
2. **Write your 2006/2007 California hunting license number** in the space provided.
3. If you applied for last year's big game drawing, you may have received hunter identification labels in the mail. If so, **affix** the hunter identification labels on the application. If not, **print** all required information, including your permanent hunter identification number (driver's license or DMV identification number) and your date of birth.
4. Clearly print the **Hunt Code** for each choice, in order of preference, on your deer tag application (see pages 22-26). For Area-Specific Archery Hunts, use the hunt code (such as A6), not the zone where the hunt is located.
5. Mail your application to:  
Department of Fish and Game  
License and Revenue Branch  
P.O. Box 168013  
Sacramento CA 95816-8013
6. Make sure your application is **received** (not postmarked) by the **drawing deadline of 5:00 p.m., June 2, 2006**. Late applications will not be entered into the drawing and applicant will not earn a preference point.

## Applying as a Party

Up to six (6) people may apply together by submitting their deer tag applications (or unsuccessful drawing notices) together, as specified below.

You must meet **all** of the following conditions to be considered a party:

1. All party members must make the same tag choices in the same order on their applications;
2. Each party member's application must show the party leader's name and driver's license, DMV identification, or DFG identification number;
3. The party size must not exceed the maximum of six (6) persons; and
4. All party members' applications must be mailed in **one** envelope with the party leader's application on top and stapled together. (Party members are awarded tags according to choices listed on the top application.)

You may not add or drop party members once your applications are submitted.

The preference point value for party applications entered in the Big Game Drawing is determined by averaging all party members' points (total preference points of the party divided by the number of party members). Preference point averages are not rounded up or down.

## Please Check Your Application Carefully!

You may not make changes to your application once it is received by the DFG.

The information you provide on your application is used to track your preference points for current and future drawings.

Incomplete, incorrect, ineligible or late applications may prevent you from receiving a deer tag for the 2006/2007 hunting season and earning a preference point for the 2006 season.

Late applications will not be entered into the drawing and applicant will not earn a preference point.

## Top Reasons Why Deer Tag Applications Are Rejected From the Drawing

1. Applications received after the deadline.
2. Invalid zone or hunt code entered on applications.
3. Zone or hunt code not entered on applications.
4. Incorrect application used to apply for the drawing (Second-Deer Tag Application).
5. Applicant is too young to apply.

*Jim Martinez of Redding, California, harvested this buck at Lewiston Lake in Zone B2.*

